



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release November 8, 1985

David Klinger (202) 343-5634

**CHARLESTONIAN BURTON MOORE, JR., WINS**  
**1985 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP COMPETITION**  
**WITH PAINTING OF FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK**

A Charleston, South Carolina, man who had almost decided not to enter the Federal Duck Stamp competition this year captured first-place in the prestigious national waterfowl art contest on November 6.

Burton E. Moore, Jr.'s, striking rendition of a male fulvous whistling duck won over 1,242 other entries in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's design competition to select the painting that will adorn the 1986-87 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

"This is wonderful. I'm at a loss for words!" said Moore, 40, who paints waterfowl and hunting dogs professionally in Charleston. "But I really hadn't planned on entering this year." Moore said his intense interest in the long-necked duck led him to submit his last-minute acrylic-on-masonite entry, only the second time he has entered the federal contest.

Moore has had no professional training in art. He began painting professionally in 1977, specializing in scenes of retrievers and duck decoys. He gravitated to scenes of waterfowl and shortly thereafter won second place in South Carolina's first State duck stamp contest with an acrylic depiction of a wood duck. His work has been displayed at the Smithsonian Institution, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in Charleston, among others.

Moore, a native of Columbia, South Carolina, holds a B.A. in history. He served 9 years in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and was released from active duty as a captain in parachute reconnaissance. He is an active hunter and a sponsor of Ducks Unlimited, a private waterfowl conservation organization.

In other activities as part of the annual judging ceremonies at the Interior Department in Washington, D.C., the J.N. "Ding" Darling Foundation of Des Moines, Iowa, presented the Fish and Wildlife Service with a \$2,500 check for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to further wetlands protection efforts. Five unique sheets of the 1984-85 Federal Duck Stamp bearing a 1984 "golden anniversary" designation imprint also were auctioned as part of this year's program, raising \$13,854 for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund from conservationists and stamp collectors.

(more)

The fulvous whistling duck, also known as the fulvous tree duck, is a long-legged, long-necked bird, whose name "fulvous" refers to its deep yellow or tawny color. Its size--nearly 2 pounds and an average 18-inch length--long neck, erect stance, and unique habits are frequently compared to those of geese, and it has a characteristic long, squealing whistle. It is one of the widest ranging duck species, found in the southern United States, Mexico, South America, Africa, and India. It is rarely found in trees, however, making its nickname a misnomer, for it prefers to nest in tall grasses near the edges of swamps and other wetlands.

"I really wasn't all that familiar with the bird," admits Moore, "until three flew over my hunting blind a few years ago. I didn't shoot them because I didn't immediately recognize them. The birds intrigued me." Further research led Moore to submit the species as his winning design.

Asked his feelings on taking top honors in the competition, Moore said, "It's going to make a big difference in my life. I can concentrate now on priorities and I don't need to be as concerned about distractions."

The federal government offers no prize or award to the winner other than a sheet of the following year's Duck Stamp autographed by the Secretary of the Interior. However, commercial wildlife art dealers are usually eager to market limited edition reprints of the winning design under private agreements with the winner. Through this contest, the reputations of previously unknown wildlife artists have been established, and those of professionals considerably enhanced.

The Federal Duck Stamp contest has been sponsored annually since 1949 by the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service to choose the design for the annual Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, popularly known as the Duck Stamp. These stamps must be purchased yearly by all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. Funds from stamp sales are used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire wetlands and other wildlife habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Nearly two million of the stamps are sold each year to hunters, stamp collectors, and a growing number of non-hunters who want to contribute to the Nation's wildlife conservation effort.

Before 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to produce a design for the stamp. Since then, the design has been chosen through the contest, open to all artists who are residents or citizens of the United States. Contestants are limited to one entry apiece each year and the competition is intense because of the growing popularity of the contest.

Second place in the 1985 Duck Stamp contest was won by Neal R. Anderson of Lincoln, Nebraska, with a gouache painting of a pair of redhead ducks, and third place was taken by E. R. Byrd of Mobile, Alabama, with an acrylic depiction of a pair of hooded mergansers. Contestants from all 50 States and the District of Columbia were represented in the contest.

Judges for this year's contest were Dr. Terry Detrich, an Easton, Maryland, conservationist; Paula J. Del Giudice, of Reno, Nevada, a free-lance writer and photographer; Charles S. Conner, of Germantown, Tennessee, director of production for Waterfowler's World Magazine; Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard, professor of zoology at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln; Dr. Milton W. Weller, professor of wildlife ecology at Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas; Frank Todd, of San Diego, California, vice president of Sea World; and Dr. Robert A. McCabe, professor emeritus of wildlife ecology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

(more)

Judges place importance on the anatomical accuracy of the birds and the suitability of the design for reproduction as a stamp. They also consider the visual impact, overall design, style, and distinctiveness of the entry in the selection process.

Since 1935, when Duck Stamps first went on sale, the program has raised approximately \$300 million for the acquisition of about 3.5 million acres of vital wildlife habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Interior Department encourages everyone who enjoys wildlife and the outdoors to help preserve wildlife habitat by purchasing the annual Duck Stamp. Duck Stamps may be purchased for \$7.50 at most post offices, U.S. Postal Service philatelic sales units, and many of our nation's 429 national wildlife refuges.

--DOI--

Note to Editors: Single black-and-white glossies of this year's design are available on a loan basis from 202/343-8770.

